



# What's Happening in Houston's Theater District

## May 2009

### MAURITIUS

**April 10 – May 3** (Times vary)

#### Alley Theatre

Theresa Rebeck (author of *The Scene and Bad Dates*) returns with *Mauritius*, a “tightly woven and ever-surprising sinister comedy” (*Playbill.com*) “filled with stunning scenes of high humor and drama” (*Variety*). The title, *Mauritius*, refers to an island off the coast of Africa from which a now highly collectible stamp, described as “the crown jewel of philately,” was issued in the age of Victoria. Like the Maltese Falcon, the *Mauritius* stamp is the fraught object of desire for an assortment of shady characters with different and mysterious backgrounds and motives, who move through the twists of the plot’s crosses and double-crosses.

*Recommended for mature audiences.*

Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$21 - \$67

(713) 220-5700 / [alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)

### RIGOLETTO

**April 17 – May 2** (Times vary)

#### Houston Grand Opera

A bitter court jester pits himself against his master in a hopeless effort to protect his daughter’s virtue. Three shining young artists—Studio alums Scott Hendricks and Albina Shagimuratova, along with Eric Cutler—make their role debuts as the hunchback *Rigoletto*, his adored daughter Gilda and the lecherous, remorseless Duke of Mantua. Patrick Summers conducts Verdi’s distinguished tragedy.

Wortham Center’s Brown Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$205

(713) 228-6737 / [houstongrandopera.org](http://houstongrandopera.org)

### ROCK ‘N’ ROLL

**April 24 – May 24** (Times vary)

#### Alley Theatre

Four-time Tony Award winner Tom Stoppard (*Hapgood*, *Invention of Love*) returns to the Alley with *Rock ‘n’ Roll*, winner of London Critics’ Circle Theatre Award for Best New Play. It’s August 1968, and Russian tanks are rolling into Prague... Jan, the Czech student, lives for rock music, Max, the English professor, lives for Communism, and Esme, the flower child, is high. By 1990, the tanks are rolling out, the Stones are rolling in and idealism has hit the wall. Stoppard’s sweeping and passionate play spans two countries, three generations and 22 turbulent years, at the end of which, love remains — and so does rock ‘n’ roll. “Tom Stoppard’s astounding new work is funny, wise and triumphant,” says *New York Magazine*.

*Recommended for mature audiences.*

Neuhaus Stage

Tickets: \$21 - \$55

(713) 220-5700 / [alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)

### RENT

**April 29 – May 3** (Times vary)

#### Theatre Under The Stars

*RENT* is the classic musical about love, friendship and community, and the seventh longest-running show in Broadway history. Now, *RENT* is coming to Houston in a new touring production starring original Broadway cast members Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp!

Over the course of its groundbreaking 12-year New York run, *RENT* transformed the definition of musical theater -- and changed Broadway forever. Set in NYC’s East Village, *RENT* is a modern take on the classic Puccini opera, *La Boheme*.

It tells the unforgettable story of a group of young artists learning to survive, falling in love, finding their voices and living for today."

Hobby Center’s Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$26 - \$60

(713) 558-8887 / [tuts.com](http://tuts.com)

## WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

**April 30 – May 2** (7:30 pm each day)

### Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

The much-anticipated Houston premiere of Walsh's Mozart Trilogy featuring Wolfgang for Webb performed by Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Amadeus for Anita performed by Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, and Mozart performed by both companies.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$23.25 - \$48.25

(713) 315-2525 / [dwdt.org](http://dwdt.org)

## SLATKIN'S BEETHOVEN EIGHTH

**April 30 – May 3** (Times vary)

### Houston Symphony

Leonard Slatkin premiered the Sierra Missa Latina at the Kennedy Center and now brings it to Houston with the same soloists. The Washington Times said "Mr. Sierra's new work is, quite simply, shockingly brilliant." In 2008-2009, Slatkin becomes Music Director in Detroit and Principal Guest Conductor in Pittsburgh. His more than 100 recordings have earned five GRAMMY® Awards and more than sixty nominations.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / [houstonsymphony.org](http://houstonsymphony.org)

## BRIEF ENCOUNTER

**May 1-9** (Times vary)

### Houston Grand Opera

Houston Grand Opera presents the world premiere of André Previn's Brief Encounter, based on David Lean's classic film adaptation of a play by Noël Coward. An honest and compassionate look at emotional infidelity, Brief Encounter stars Elizabeth Futral and Nathan Gunn as Laura and Alec, the couple torn between love and honor, and Kim Josephson as Laura's bewildered husband; Patrick Summers conducts. Based upon the play Still Life and the screenplay to the 1945 film Brief Encounter, both by Noël Coward. Commissioned by Houston Grand Opera

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$205

(713) 228-6737 / [houstongrandopera.org](http://houstongrandopera.org)

## AFTER BACH

**May 2** (8:00 pm)

### Da Camera of Houston

Felix Mendelssohn led the Bach revival of the 19th century that brought the Baroque master's music into the concert repertoire. When the romantic composers discovered Bach, their own music was forever changed. Liszt's powerful late masterpiece, Via Crucis, a unique religious work for solo piano and chorus, receives a rare performance.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$22 - \$38

(713) 524-5050 / [dacamera.com](http://dacamera.com)

## SOUNDS OF JOY

**May 3** (5:00 pm)

### Doctors Orchestra of Houston

BEETHOVEN - Egmont Overture and BEETHOVEN - Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 "Choral". Featuring the Houston Baptist University Choir.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$10 - 20

(832) 202-2882 / [doctorsorchestrahouston.org](http://doctorsorchestrahouston.org)

## AN EVENING OF ROMANTIC CONCERTOS

**May 4** (7:30 pm)

### Houston Chamber Symphony

You are sure to enjoy this concert of luxuriously romantic concertos! Thomas LeGrande and Ferenc Ilényi will fill Zilkha Hall with the beautiful music of Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 2 and the highly revered Violin Concerto of Tchaikovsky. Maestro Lowe conducts Weber's "Overture" from the opera Peter Schmolli in the Houston Chamber Symphony's final concert of the 2008-2009 concert season.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$15 - \$30

(713) 315-2525 / [houstonchambersymphony.org](http://houstonchambersymphony.org)

## YO-YO MA

**May 5** (8:00 pm)

### Houston Symphony

"His playing was utterly natural and beautiful...Melodies sang. Bravura passages came effortlessly...thrilling music poured from Ma and the orchestra." – Charles Ward, The Houston Chronicle

The many-faceted career of Yo-Yo Ma (*pictured*) testifies to his search for ways to reach audiences. Whether performing a new concerto, revisiting a familiar work, or exploring non-western cultures, Ma finds connections that stimulate the imagination. The winner of 14 GRAMMY® Awards, Ma will captivate you with his musical genius and personality.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$80 - \$150

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

## VIDA DEL BAILE

**May 5** (7:00 pm)

### Dance Houston

A Latin Dance Festival on Cinco de Mayo!

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: TBA

(713) 526-1049 / dancehouston.org

## A LITTLE DAY MUSIC

**May 6** (Noon)

### Da Camera of Houston

*A Little Day Music* concerts fulfill an important aspect of Da Camera's mission to develop the audience for chamber music and jazz by making it accessible to everyone and part of everyday life. Downtown workers, schools, seniors and day care centers are among the many who enjoy Da Camera's free lunchtime concerts on the first Wednesday of each month, October through May, at noon in the lobby of the Wortham Theater Center. Bring your lunch and enjoy the wide variety of artists and ensembles presented this season.

Wortham Center's Grand Foyer

Tickets: Free

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

## FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS

**May 6** (8:00 pm)

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$38.50

(713) 629-3700 / ticketmaster.com

## SLATKIN'S BEETHOVEN EIGHTH

**May 8-10** (Times vary)

### Houston Symphony

When the Bartók Concerto was premiered in 1944, legendary Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor Serge Koussevitzky called it "the best orchestral work of the past twenty-five years."

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

## ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

**May 8** (8:00 pm)

### Society for the Performing Arts

With a reputation that is skyrocketing around the globe, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is renowned for mixing "technical prowess and confident verve for a compelling display of contemporary ballet" (The Dallas Morning News). The company will perform a sophisticated repertory featuring some of the world's foremost choreographers. The Boston Herald predicts, "If here's a classically trained company of the future, it's Aspen Santa Fe Ballet."

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$27 - \$47

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

## HOT PEAS 'N BUTTER

**May 9** (2:00 pm)

### Society for the Performing Arts

You've seen their hit videos "Number 1" and "Deep Down" on Noggin's "Jack's Big Music Show" and Nickelodeon's "Move to the Music." This unique children's musical group from New York is quickly becoming a household name! "The sizzling percussive beats will put even the gloomiest kid in a party mood," says Parenting magazine.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$27 - \$42

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

## IL TRIONFO DEL TEMPO

**May 10** (5:00 pm)

### Ars Lyrica

Handel's first oratorio, in which the characters Beauty and Pleasure - at the instigation of Time and Disillusion - dazzlingly dispute each other's primacy. (Guess who wins!) Starring sopranos Ava Pine and Melissa Givens, countertenor Gerrod Pagenkopf, and tenor Joseph Gaines.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$31.25 - \$41.25

(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org

## HAPPY DAYS – A NEW MUSICAL

**May 12-24** (Times vary)

### Theatre Under The Stars

Goodbye gray skies, hello blue! Happy days are here again with Richie, Potsie, Ralph Malph and the unforgettable "king of cool" Arthur "The Fonz" Fonzarelli. Based on the hit Paramount Pictures' television series, HAPPY DAYS – A New Musical reintroduces one of America's best loved families, the Cunninghams, and the days of 1959 Milwaukee complete with varsity sweaters, hula hoops, and jukebox sock-hoppin'.

The famed drive-in malt shop and number one hang-out, Arnold's, is in danger of demolition, so the gang teams up to save it with a dance contest and tv-worthy wrestling match. This perfectly family-friendly musical will have you rockin' and rollin' all week long!

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$32 - \$95.50

(713) 558-8887 / tuts.com

## BONNIE RAITT

**May 14** (8:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$35 - \$75

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

## RESPIGHI'S PINES OF ROME

**May 14-17** (Times vary)

### Houston Symphony

Colorful and evocative, The Pines of Rome will spur your imagination with images of the Borghese Gardens filled with children playing, a Roman temple under the stars and a Roman legion's thundering march along the Appian Way.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

## LULLY'S ARMIDE

**May 15-16** (8:00 pm each day)

### Mercury Baroque

Mercury Baroque recreates the grandeur of 17th century France with Lully's masterpiece Armide. French artists join the ensemble to resurrect this stunning opera for its first Houston performance.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$47

(713) 533-0080 / mercurybaroque.org

## AROUND THE WORLD WITH MUSIQA

**May 16** (2:30 pm)

### Musiqa

The whole family is invited to Musiqa's acclaimed educational concert Around the World with Musiqa, awarded a 2008 Access to Artistic Excellence Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Every child who attends receives a free DVD of the program.

Musiqa's fifth season of Around the World also includes fourteen performances for Houston area school districts from October 22-24, 2008 and May 12-15, 2009, presented in collaboration with Young Audiences of Houston.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$18 - \$32

(713) 315-2525 / musiqahouston.org

## JAMES TAYLOR

**May 16** (8:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$82

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

## BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

**May 19** (8:00 pm)

### Project Divisi

For almost half a century the world was divided in two halves. For those living day-to-day behind the iron curtain there were many obstacles. Composers had to temper their musical manifestations with the ideals of Communism in order to remain on friendly terms within the political sphere. Project Divisi brings these composers to the stage for an incendiary conclusion to their inaugural season.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$16.25 - \$28.25

(713) 315-2525 / projectdivisi.org

## DANCING WITH THE SYMPHONY

**May 22-24** (Times vary)

### Houston Symphony

Houston's own dancing stars will shine during this dazzling evening of music, footwork and competition. Professional dancers and local celebrities will pair up as the Houston Symphony and Principal Pops Conductor Michael Krajewski lead a competitive romp through the ballroom dance styles of the Tango, Waltz, Foxtrot and the Cha Cha. Come cast a vote for your favorite couple!

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$110

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

## EVITA

**May 22-31** (Times vary)

### Masquerade Theatre

Based on the life of Eva Duarté Perón, Argentina's beloved benefactor, Evita tells the story of a young girl turned actress, radio star and, ultimately, spiritual leader for her people. Told through the eyes of "Che" (an everyman who represents the voice of the Argentine people and who is a representation of the revolutionary figure Che Guevara), the show chronicles the less-than-reputable rise of Eva from poor aspiring performer into the wife of Juan Perón, a general who soon after becomes president. Throughout her career, Evita brings hope and optimism to the lower class as she maneuvers through Argentina's political and social turmoil. Andrew Lloyd Webber's score and Tim Rice's lyrics give a heartfelt and beautiful look at one of the 20th century's most controversial and influential personalities.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$30 - \$50

(713) 315-2525 / masqueradetheatre.com

## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

**May 26 – June 7** (Times vary)

### Broadway Across America

Tevey, humble milkman, harried husband and devoted father to five marriageable daughters, invites us into his little village of Anatevka. Here, there is a tradition for everything – how to eat, how to wear clothes, how to pray, how to marry...all of which are happily imparted by our earthy philosopher as he draws us into FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. It is a remarkable journey traveling through secret love, forbidden betrothal, weddings, devotion and forgiveness, tempered by rejection, oppression and imminent revolution. And, emerging through it all, we find the humor, strength and perseverance of Tevey and his people, reminding us of life's never-ending circle.

Never has any other musical so magically woven music, dance, poignancy and laughter into such an electrifying and unforgettable experience. Based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF has been lauded by critics again and again, and won the hearts of people all around the world. Filled with a rousing, heartwarming score, which includes "Tradition," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," "If I Were A Rich Man" and "Sunrise, Sunset," FIDDLER ON THE ROOF is a timeless classic. Relive a glorious tradition of the musical theatre with FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$23 - \$61

(713) 629-3700 / ticketmaster.com

## OF AN ERA

**May 28 – June 7** (Times vary)

### Houston Ballet

Three talented choreographers. Three exquisite works. Three cheers to neoclassical ballet. Christopher Wheeldon's Carousel is pure romance, a whirling tribute to the Richard Rodgers iconic musical. Spanish choreographer Nacho Durato's first work, Jardí Tancat, is still considered one of his finest. Set to Catalan folk songs, it is the poignant story of people who work the barren land. Concluding the program is Stanton Welch's Nosotros, a brilliant display of talent in a magical, star lit setting.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$17 - \$150

(713) 227-ARTS / houstonballet.org

## FRANK CALIENDO

**May 30** (8:30 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$39.75

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

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